Proposal for Media Council

3733. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD :
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Media Council to replace the existing Press Council to cover both print and electronic media ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether some eminent journalists in their leading articles in national dailies have recently criticised the role of Chairman and some members of Press Council and expressed that objectives for which the Council had been established have not been achieved thereby ; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to plug the loopholes, if any, to make it more acceptable to all sections of the media ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Certain articles have appeared in the national dailies on the subject. As a policy, the Government does not interfere in the functioning of the Press Council of India.

Harassment of Consumers by Pay Channels

3734. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that consumers are suffering due to Pay Channels like Star, ESPN, ZEE TV as they are increasing their tariffs continuously ;

(b) whether there is any control of Government on such companies;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to check such increase and stop harassment of the consumers ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Government has received representation from various quarters regarding increase in subscription charges by various Pay Channels.

(b) Government does not regulate the charges levied by Private Channels.